

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ITF-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPACREP GUAM IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM 13TH GUAM  
LEGISLATURE - SENATOR BARRETT

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SENATOR  
CONCEPCION CRUZ BARRETT OF THE THIRTEENTH GUAM LEGISLATURE,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND CONSUMER  
PROTECTION:

QUOTE: THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER, SECRETARY OF STATE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, D.C. DEAR MR.  
KISSINGER:

PRESENTLY THERE ARE OVER TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND SOUTH  
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES BEING CARED FOR IN THE TERRITORY OF  
GUAM UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY  
AGENCIES. MANY MORE ARE EXPECTED IN THE COMING DAYS.

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WHILE IT IS A GREAT HUMANITARIAN EFFORT TO HELP THESE  
REFUGEES, PERHAPS THE GREATEST IN THIS CENTURY, IT IS AT  
THE SAME TIME A TREMENDOUSLY BURDENSOME TASK TO FACE.

THE GOVERNOR OF OUR TERRITORY HAS APPROACHED THIS LEGISLATURE TO REQUEST AID IN PUBLIC FUNDS TO HELP THESE PEOPLE. HOWEVER, THIS LEGISLATURE CANNOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE COMMIT ITSELF TO SUPPORT OF "OPERATION NEW LIFE" WITHOUT FIRST KNOWING THE FACTS AS STATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE RELATIVE TO THE FUTURE STATUS OF THESE REFUGEES.

THIS LEGISLATURE MUST HAVE POSITIVE ANSWERS TO URGENT QUESTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING MORE DEFINITELY. THOSE QUESTIONS ARE:

1. WHAT WILL BE THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE REFUGEES ON GUAM?
2. WHAT HEALTH HAZARDS WILL THESE REFUGEES PLACE UPON THE LOCAL RESIDENTS?
3. WILL THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN FOOD, SHELTER AND SUPPLIES FOR THESE PEOPLE?
4. WHAT SECURITY CAN BE PROVIDED TO ASSURE THE TERRITORY THAT THESE REFUGEES WILL BE PREVENTED FROM BECOMING ILLEGAL ALIENS ON GUAM?
5. WILL THE PEOPLE OF GUAM BE REIMBURSED FOR WHATEVER PUBLIC FUNDS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO AID THE REFUGEES?

ANY OFFICIAL ACT ON THE PART OF THE 13TH GUAM LEGISLATURE IS PURSUANT TO ANSWERS TO THESE RELEVANT QUESTIONS. OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO US IS THE PRESENT ECONOMIC RECESSION WE FACE, AND THE HEALTH OF OUR ISLAND PEOPLE. GUAM SIMPLY CANNOT ABSORB THE THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES PERMANENTLY. UNLIKE THE MAINLAND, OURS IS A SMALL COMMUNITY.

THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS LEGISLATURE IS TO THE PEOPLE OF GUAM. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE NEEDS OF THE REFUGEES AND WILL DO OUR BEST TO AID THE MILITARY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN ITS EFFORTS TO HELP THESE EVACUEES. LET US EMPHASIZE THAT WE WISH TO CONTRIBUTE OUR HUMANITARIAN SHARE IN THE OPERATION, BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF JEOPARDIZING ANY OF THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM.

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MENT OF DEFENSE IN ITS EFFORTS TO HELP THESE EVACUEES. LET US EMPHASIZE THAT WE WISH TO CONTRIBUTE OUR HUMANITARIAN SHARE IN THE OPERATION, BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF JEOPARDIZING ANY OF THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM.

VERY TRULY YOURS, CONCEPCION CRUZ BARRET SENATOR. UNQUOTE

2. WE PROPOSE TO RESPOND AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE:

DEAR SENATOR BARRETT, SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ASKED ME TO

RESPOND TO YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 29. WE APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE HOSPITALITY OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF GUAM IN PROVIDING SHELTER TO CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WHO FLED THEIR COUNTRY DURING RECENT WEEKS BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THEIR LIVES WERE ENDANGERED. WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAKE WIDEST POSSIBLE USE OF U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES ON GUAM FOR A TEMPORARY RESTAGING SITE IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY BURDEN ON YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.

LET ME TRY TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS YOU RAISED:

1. WHAT WILL BE THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE REFUGEES ON GUAM? WE VIEW GUAM AS A TEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL RESTAGING CENTER FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHERE INTERESTED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE ABLE TO MAINTAIN OFFICES FOR THE PERIOD REQUIRED TO ASSIST IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE REFUGEES IN OTHER COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. AT THE PRESENT TIME MOST OF THE REFUGEES ARE MOVING FROM GUAM TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES. SOME HAVE BEGUN MOVING TO CANADA AS WELL. WE HAVE LAUNCHED A VIGOROUS DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE IMMIGRATION TO THIRD COUNTRIES AND HOPE THAT DURING THE COMING WEEKS OTHER COUNTRIES WILL OPEN IMMIGRATION OFFICES. WE ARE UNSURE HOW LONG THE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS WILL TAKE, BUT WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO MOVE THE REFUGEES FROM GUAM WITH REASONABLE DISPATCH.

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2. WHAT HEALTH HAZARDS WILL THESE REFUGEES PLACE UPON THE LOCAL RESIDENTS? WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE REFUGEES HAVE POSED ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR THE PEOPLE OF GUAM OR THAT THEY WILL DO SO IN THE FUTURE. I AM ENCLOSING A COPY OF THE WEEKLY REPORT OF THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL FOR MAY 3, 1975 WHICH DISCUSSES IN SOME DETAIL THE

HEALTH STATUS OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. AS YOU WILL ALREADY HAVE NOTED, THESE PEOPLE ARE REMARKABLY HEALTHY.

3. WILL THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN FOOD, SHELTER AND SUPPLIES FOR THESE PEOPLE? THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REFUGEE CARE AND MAINTENANCE.

4. WHAT SECURITY CAN BE PROVIDED TO ASSURE THE TERRITORY THAT THESE REFUGEES WILL BE PREVENTED FROM BECOMING ILLEGAL ALIENS OF GUAM? ONLY THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO INDICATE THAT THEY WISH TO SETTLE ON GUAM AND WHO ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM WILL BE ALLOWED TO

BECOME PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF GUAM.

5. WILL THE PEOPLE BE REIMBURSED FOR WHATEVER PUBLIC FUNDS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO AID THE REFUGEES? WHEN FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE WE WILL ATTEMPT TO REIMBURSE THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR ANY EXPENDITURES OF PUBLIC FUNDS WHICH HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY REQUESTED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE REFUGEE PROGRAM. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR PUBLIC FUNDS WHICH WE HAVE NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED.

3. WE UNDERSTAND FULLY YOUR FIRST OBLIGATION AS A SENATOR TO THE PEOPLE OF GUAM, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES CONTRADICTS THIS OBLIGATION. WE LOOK UPON THE GUAM RESTAGING CENTER AS A TEMPORARY FACILITY, WHICH WE WILL BE ABLE TO CLOSE IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, TO HELP THE ONWARD FLOW OF REFUGEES TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND TO THIRD COUNTRIES. WE APPRECIATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT IN THIS ENDEAVOR. IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, I HOPE YOU WILL

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TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE AGAIN.  
SINCERELY, L. DEAN BROWN, DIRECTOR, INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE. UNQUOTE.

4. PLEASE CABLE YOUR APPROVAL OR COMMENTS WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. TEXT REMAINS CLASSIFIED UNTIL YOUR APPROVAL RECEIVED HERE. KISSINGER

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